

TOMBSTONE EPITAPH

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A WORTHY APPOINTMENT

The reappointment of Sid Smyth, as county engineer as one of the first acts of the new board of supervisors composed of John B. Hart, chairman and I. C. E. Adams and D. A. Adams, members, is meeting with the hearty approval of taxpayers all over the county.

Mr. Smyth has been one of the best county engineers Cochise county has ever had, and his being chosen to serve this county, the second largest and most wealthy in this great state of Arizona, is a credit to the new board.

During his past two years in office, Mr. Smyth has demonstrated his ability not only as a road builder, but a man who has the county's interests at heart.

He has played no favorites with any one section of the county, but has treated every district with fairness. Need of roads in any one district has not controlled his actions in building a road where it was most necessary, and today as a result of his painstaking work, Cochise county enjoys the distinction of having more completed and good going roads than any other county in the state.

A total of almost 400 miles of completed highway stands to Cochise county's credit. This all requires maintenance work, and Mr. Smyth is ever on the alert for just such action and does not allow needed repairs or maintenance to lag. When a piece of road needs attention he sees to it that it gets attention at once. The county's trunk line from state line to Pima county is one of the best in the state is still being improved in places where improvement is needed.

All feeder lines touching all parts of the county are receiving their care and during the next two years will continue to receive the best there is in the county engineer.

He has always maintained a first-class organization in his highway department and being now in control of sufficient road equipment we look for a continuance of Mr. Smyth's good work with the co-operation of the new board during the coming two years.

Certainly the board has recognized Mr. Smyth's executive ability, else they would not have reappointed him without question leaving him in full charge of his department for two years more. And they made no mistake.

MORE SCIENTIFIC MARVELS

A couple of weeks ago Mme. Tetrazzini put her lips to an ordinary telephone transmitter in a New York hotel and sang to the crews of several dozen American warships, some of them 800 miles distant. The song was heard perfectly, and when it was finished there came a chorus of applause from all those scattered groups of listeners.

This achievement plainly foreshadows the time not far distant when sound may be carried without wires anywhere in the United States, and a speaker or musician may have the whole nation for an audience. Imagine singing or playing or speaking to about 100,000,000 people all at once!

About the same time a photograph was transmitted by telegraph from St. Louis to New York. It was a picture of an Indian chief. The copy was so good that the likeness was instantly recognizable, and it made an excellent newspaper cut without retouching. It came by wire, but undoubtedly pictures and drawings will soon be sent by wireless to almost any distance.

A few days ago there was given in New York City a moving picture show all in color, the natural tints of the characters, objects and scenery being reproduced by a new color-photography method. How long will it be until the present monochromatic process is a thing of the past, and all photographs will show the natural hues in their finest shadings?

Science has made vast progress in the last century in turning natural laws to man's use, and the progress grows continually more rapid. There is a boy in California now who has an electric motor which seems to prove his claim that it derives its power direct from the ether of space, producing energy by tapping an infinite source of power. He may be bluffing, as many others have bluffed, but if he has not discovered the secret, somebody will, sooner or later. Then, with limitless energy at man's disposal, what limit can there be to material progress?

SIMPLE LIVING

Necessity often forces on us things that are very much for our good, but which would be neglected except under compulsion. The after war re-adjustment which is forcing a reduction of wages or periods of unemployment will compel many to change their extravagant mode of life, engendered by the prosperity of the past few years.

For our own good, if we will indulge in simple living during the year that is just opening, we will find ourselves in better health and richer in purse when 1921 shall give way to 1922.

Plain food is better for our stomach than the rich concoctions that we too often indulge in. There is more nutriment in a bowl of oatmeal and cream than in a bowl of turtle soup. The latter is very tasty, but less nutritious. We are as well off in plain clothes, too, as in the most elaborate work of the tailor. The next year is going to see a change in the methods of life of a large portion of the people. "Jazz" will be done away with, and a normal life will take the place of the artificial whirl in which we have been indulging. We will be better for it, too, and enjoy life in a truer measure.

Who's Who and What's What Is Causing Concern

EDITORIAL

Many business men in Tombstone, when seen today, expressed indignation at having been given a receipt not properly signed by the city officials for their license tax paid to Porter McDonald yesterday. According to a number interviewed last night and today McDonald yesterday in making collections, representing himself as chief of police, told them the signatures of the city clerk and mayor were not necessary, but had merely been a matter of form and he would be personally responsible for the money if there was any question.

On this representation many paid license money to him it is claimed.

One business man, after seeing that his receipt was not properly signed, asked McDonald, he reported, on what authority he was making the collections, and received the reply that he was doing so as chief of police.

Another business man paid McDonald and also C. L. Blackburn, who is issuing a receipt signed by both the city clerk and the mayor. He said today one of the receipts was going to be made good to him or he would bring action to force its refund.

Many others reported that they have had one "slipped over" this time, but would see that it never happened again until they knew they were paying the money over to the right man. According to the city license ordinance no license receipt is valid unless signed by the city clerk and mayor.

C. L. Blackburn, who claims he is still city marshal and is still on the job under legal advice, says he is continuing his duties the best he knows how, until the matter can be finally settled legally.

As yet the license record books have not been turned over to the city clerk, while yesterday and today the efforts of the Daily Prospector to locate the petition presented by McDonald at Tuesday night's meeting has been unavailing. The Prospector wishes to publish all four petitions presented to the council but City Clerk Cavanaugh advises that he never saw the petition after it was presented to the council Tuesday night. Although it is a city record, someone has made away with the petition. As all of the petitions would make interesting reading, the Daily Prospector would like to publish them. If anyone should happen know where the McDonald petition is located they would do the City Clerk a favor by turning it over to him as he is anxious to have possession of the city records in accordance with the law.

Tomorrow, Saturday, or not later than Monday is expected to see the controversy take on a hue tending settlement through legal channels, while at present everything seems to be in turmoil.

Porter McDonald and C. L. Blackburn are each claiming to be city marshal, Mayor Cummings and City Clerk Cavanaugh sticking by the latter, while City Treasurer Warner and Councilmen Ciochetti and McDonald's reinstatement are making no further announcements, and McDonald's reinstatement or making no further announcements.

MINE ASSESSMENT BILL GIVES RELIEF

Whatever was the cause of President Wilson's withholding his signature from the act passed by congress extending the time for doing mine assessment work for the year 1920, the fact that the bill was signed in time to serve those for whose relief it was intended relieved an anxiety in this part of the west that was beginning to border on desperation. Many of the mine owners had completed their assessment work, but many others had been looking for the relief provided by the bill and had not completed their work, thus leaving their claims subject to relocation after midnight of December 31. The strenuous efforts exerted by Senator Ashurst to have the bill signed shows that the senator is on the job properly when it comes to serving the people of Arizona.

Owners of mining claims have not been relieved of the 1920 assessment work; the time for its completion has only been extended to July 1, 1921, and to have this relief it is necessary to file their intention to thus complete their obligation to the government.

The annual assessment work on mining claims amounts to work usual to one hundred dollars and is required to prevent persons holding claims without doing any development work at all. Whether this is a better method than to require an annual tax is a question on which there is a division of opinion. It is claimed on one side that assessment work affords at least a chance for the discovery of important mineral deposits; on the other hand it is claimed that claim owners seldom do the assessment work with a view of real development, but look for the softest ground on which to do the work required to hold the claim.

It is not now expected that there will be any further relief to holders of mining claims, who were relieved of the work for two years during the war when many of the claim owners were in the army or away doing work of some kind.—Douglas International.

PENNSYLVANIA'S ARSON RING

If Old Cap Collier had written a "thriller" in the days of his prime, depicting a gang of firebugs, in a thickly settled and civilized community, destroying nearly five millions of property in a few weeks, and getting away every time without leaving a clue, any boy who read the story would have been soundly spanked, because such a tale was too far from the truth to pass the censorship of parents. Yet that very thing has happened in Pennsylvania, near Pittsburg, and the authorities appear completely mystified.

The gang must be large and must be well organized, for the property destroyed has been school property, in every case, and the building has always been so thoroughly ablaze when discovered that it was impossible to save it. The object of the fires is as mysterious as their origin. Every resource of the law has thus far been powerless to stop the outrages. Such arrests as have been made have proven false leads, and the arson ring has established a reign of terror. But these men must be captured and punished. The law must be vindicated and people must be made to feel secure in their homes. At this time, the "gang" has the best of it, but the law will triumph.

THE JEWS AND PALESTINE

Reports from all parts of Europe tell of Jews in large numbers making their way to their own land—the Promised Land of the Scriptures, Palestine. So great has the movement become that it has attracted the attention of several foreign governments.

There are many devout persons who believe that the Jews will be gathered to their land in due time and that then will come the Millennium—the thousand years of peace. These discussions of the religious aspect of the case are for theologians. We are looking to the practical effect of such a movement on the world at large.

Palestine was at one time a land of great fertility, "a land flowing with milk and honey," in spite of its generally rocky character. Even with the primitive methods of agriculture as practiced in Bible times, the ancient Hebrews made a living and were considered prosperous as a people. But the soil today is not what it once was, and would require considerable fertilization. Nevertheless, it could support an immense population if properly worked.

Palestine, also, has other resources and could be made a great wool producing country. Those who are heading the "Back to Palestine" movement are looking to make their land one of manufacturing. There are great water power possibilities, though at this time, the French control the water power, having control of the Jordan and Jermuk rivers outside the borders of the Holy Land. It is believed, however, that satisfactory arrangements can be made looking to control of both streams to their source and mouth.

Among other nations, the Jew is a trader—a merchant, not a farmer or manufacturer. It is true that immense numbers of Jews can be found in some industries, notably the manufacture of clothing, but as a rule they have never taken to what is known as manual labor. Therefore, the attempt to transport them back to their own land and to make of them a nation of manufacturers and agriculturists will be watched with interest. Many leading Jews have always contended that the Jew is a trader because of his environment—that it was necessary for him to secret his wealth for centuries to prevent its confiscation.

At any rate, the movement toward Palestine is on. More than 6,000 emigrants arrived during 1920 and it is estimated that more than five times that number will go during 1921. It is one of the phenomena of reconstruction that will be a subject for study.

MINDING OUR OWN BUSINESS

As long ago as 1883, Prof. William Graham Sumner, of Yale, warned against too great paternalism in government. If the warning was good thirty-seven years ago, how much more pertinent is it today, when there is such a tendency to turn to the government for everything.

Now when we find anything wrong, we are so ready to say "Congress ought to pass a law."

Abraham Lincoln said that the government is best which governs least. That principle holds good in the family, in the school, in the state and in the nation.

Losses in the reign of government does not mean anarchy, but continual tightening of them will mean that very thing, eventually. When the restrictions of law become irksome, the pendulum is liable to swing to the other extreme.

The greater individual responsibility we can feel, the better we are. That child for whom everything is done, does not become self reliant, but becomes soft. That people, for whom the government does everything is a weak people. Government that protects its citizens at home and abroad and so administers the laws that all are given an equal opportunity has fulfilled the duty to the citizens. Too much government breeds unrest.

PUBLISH DELINQUENT TAX LISTS

Confronted by an alleged shortage growing out of purported failure to account for delinquent tax collections, county officials ought to be impressed with the fact that it may have been poor economy to abandon the practice of publishing delinquent tax lists.

In order to save money for the county, the publication of these lists was dispensed with. The economy motive was alright, but is it economy—the failure to publish the lists?

In the first place, publication of the names of persons delinquent for taxes is, ordinarily, an incentive for them to pay up. Furthermore, it is a notice to them that they are delinquent, and, immediately the notice is served, the taxpayer knows, or ought to know, whether it is erroneous. If he has paid, and has not been given due credit, he is pretty likely to make haste to get to the tax collector and see what the trouble is. And, to speak plainly, no collector of taxes would be much inclined to "hold out" collections from taxpayers, notice of whose delinquency is published every year.—Douglas Dispatch.

LICENSES

In Chicago a marriage license costs \$1.00 and a dog license \$3. The county clerk insists that the former ought to be raised at least to the dignity of the latter, because a wife is surely of more value than many dogs, and worth paying for accordingly.

"A young man about to be married is so full of joy and hope," says the clerk, "that I am sure few, if any, would object."

The clerk, however, misses a very important point. When a man pays for a dog license, he has met the chief item of canine expense for the year. When he buys a marriage license his expenditures have just begun. In some European countries they are charging still more for the dog licenses and paying the man a bonus for getting married.—Exchange.

Shooting blank cartridges to scare his wife, is one man's idea of being funny. When the woman had to be taken to the hospital suffering with severe shock, he found that it was not so much of a joke as he had thought.